

Attorney Docket: 112.P14015

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REMARKS**Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance****BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

The Examiner's statements of reasons for allowance are hereby acknowledged by Assignee.

Assignee agrees that claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the documents cited by the Examiner; however, Assignee takes no position regarding the reasons for allowance presented by the Examiner, other than the positions Assignee may have previously taken during prosecution of the above-referenced patent application. Therefore, the Examiner's reasons for allowance should not be attributed to Assignee as an indication of the basis for Assignees' belief that any claims are patentably distinct. Furthermore, it is respectfully asserted that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record. While in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), a failure by the Assignee to disagree with the Examiner, or file more detailed comments, does not give rise to any implication that the Assignee agrees with or acquiesce in the reasoning of the Examiner, here, by this document, Assignee is expressly making clear that no such agreement or acquiesce is present.

Status of Claims

In this amendment, claims 5, 7 and 15 have been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error, and claims 19-28 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that there is adequate support in the specification for the foregoing amendments to claims 5, 7 and 15, and the amendments introduce no new matter. Furthermore, amendments to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims and, accordingly, no prosecution history estoppel should apply. Additionally, the specification supports new claims 19-28. For example, support may be found at least from paragraph [0002] – [0022], the claims, and Figures 1 - 4. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the amendments to claims 5, 7 and 15, and enter new claims 19-28, and allow all claims to proceed to allowance.

To: Examiner Baker

From: Leslie Mullican for Michael J.

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Status of the Specification

The specification has been amended to include the previously-presented claim to foreign priority. Additionally, the specification has been amended to correct several inadvertent typographical errors, and to more clearly delineate intended subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification introduce no new matter, and are directed to informalities.

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CONCLUSION

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/16/06


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted via facsimile or deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

October 16, 2006
Date of Transmission

Leslie C. Mullican
Name of Person Transmitting Correspondence

Leslie C. Mullican
Signature